1394

NEW SPECIES OF THE GENERA PROLASIUS FOREL AND MELOPHORUS LUBBOCK (HYMENOPTERA, FORMICIDAE)

By J. J. McAreavey, S.J.

Plate 1, Fig. 1.

(Received for publication May 27, 1947)

Although this paper is concerned almost entirely with species of *Prolasius,* it is not meant to be a revision of that genus. Species described by Clark from the Otway Ranges (Mem. Nat. Mus. Vict. 8, pp. 66-70, 1934), and several species previously regarded as belonging to other genera, have been included as well as a number of new species. Since, however, only those new species of which considerable numbers of specimens could be examined are described in this paper, and since it is known that there are undescribed species in various collections, a complete revision of the genus *Prolasius* would contain more than twice the number of ants here described.

Wheeler included among *Prolasius* the species *Notoncus hickmani* Clark and *Notoncus rotundiceps* Clark (Roy. Soc. Vict. 42, pp. 126-127, 1929), though in his article (Psyche 42, March pp. 68-72, 1935) he does not give the reason for this change. This does not appear to be correct, since apart from the difference in the structure of the thorax, neither of these species has the ocelli, which are always present in *Prolasius.* However, from the descriptions and figures, neither of these species seem to belong to *Notoncus,* for the pronotum and metanotum lack the characteristics of that genus, and again ocelli should be present, as in other species of *Notoncus.* Without an examination of the types, it is difficult to determine to which genus these species should be transferred—certainly they are not *Prolasius.*

In the same article in Psyche, Wheeler agrees with Clark, who places the genus *Myrmecorhynchus* in the tribe *Melophorini,* though previously both he and Emery (Genera Insect. Fasc. 183, p. 36, 1925) had regarded it as representing a distinct tribe. *Melophorini* now contain the following almost entirely Australian genera—*Melophorus* Lubbock, *Prolasius* Forel, *Diodontolepis* Wheeler, *Notoncus* Emery, *Pseudonotoncus* Clark and *Myrmecorhynchus* Andre, each of which needs complete revision. Based on differences in external structure, Wheeler's division of

B

Melophorus into three sub-genera (Psyche 1935 p. 69) (i) *Melophorus sensu stricto,* (ii) *Erimelophorus* and (iii) *Trichomelophorus,* is a useful one. Further knowledge of the habits of the species may suggest an even more accurate division, for the habits certainly differ greatly—some species are honey ants, others harvest grain, and a third group, containing *Melophorus fulvihirtus* Clark, live by raiding other ant nests. The interesting ant, *Melophorus potteri* new species, described in this paper presents still another difference of habit, for this ant attacks termites.

The habits and nest of *M. potteri* correspond closely to those of the robber ant *M. fulvihirtus,* described by Clark (Mem. Nat. Mus. Vict. 12, pp. 71-74, 1941). It is interesting to note that the moundless nest, and the habit of closing the entrance with small stones during the cooler part of the day, is common to other species of *Melophorus. Melophorus aeneovirens* (Lowne) has been observed at Pymble, N.S.W., and it was noted that the entrance to the nest was open only from about eleven a.m. till three p.m. on hot days, and that the small stones used to close the entrance were kept inside the nest. The nest of *M. potteri* is situated about three or four yards from the termite nest, and when the temperature rises to above 90° Fahr. a few ants appear and make their way to the termite nest. To quote Mr. Herbert Potter, of Patho, Victoria, who discovered this species, "they break into the cast of the termite nest on the surface of the ground, enter, always come out backwards dragging the termites after them, and go into their own nests in the same way." "They are not very numerous, and there are not often more than three or four on the track between the two nests." "They seem to live entirely on termites and are never seen carrying anything else to their nests."

Wheeler, in his paper on the relationship between ants and termites (Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts and Sc. 71 (3) pp. 159-243, 1936), discusses at length the question of "Termitharpagy," but the habits of *M. potteri* do not appear to correspond with those of any ant he describes. *Stigmacros termitoxenus* Wheeler, for example, from Mullewa, W.A., lives in the nest of *Tumulitermes peracutus* Hill apparently quite peacefully, though it is possible that it steals termite eggs as do many of the species of *Solenopsis.* The Ponerine ants, *Termitopone* and *Megapone* of Brazil attack termite nests, and carry off termites, but they do this in close columns, rather similar to the raiding columns of our *Eusphinctus* when these carry off the eggs and larvæ of other ants. The Australian species *Machomyrma dispar* Forel engages in warfare

with termites, and it is a well known fact that *Iridomyrmex* and many Formicinæ attack termites once they discover a broken termite nest, but systematic raiding by individual ants appears to be something new.

Family **FORMICIDAE** Latreille, 1810
Subfamily **Formicinae** Lepeletier, 1836
Tribe Melophorini Forel, 1912
Genus PROLASIUS Forel, 1892

Genus PROLASIUS Florel, Mitt. Schweitz. Ent. Ges. 8. p. 332, 1892.

Formica (part) Smith Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond., I., p. 53, 1862.
Prenolepis (part) Mayr Verh. Zool. Bot. Ges Wien., 36, p. 362, 1886.
Lasius subgen. *Prolasius* Forel Mitt. Scheitz. Ent. Ges., 8, p. 332, 1892.
Melophorus subgen. *Lasiophanes* Emery Act. Soc. Sc. Chili, p. 16, 1895.
Prolasius Wheeler Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 45, p. 695, 1922.
Melophorus subgen. *Prolasius* Emery Genera Insect. fasc. 183, p. 13, 1925.
Prolasius Clark Mem. Nat. Mus. Vict., 8, p. 66, 1934.

Worker: small and *monomorphic*. Head subrectangular with sides more or less convex. Mandibles with the masticatory edge furnished with five or six small but distinct teeth; the *tips of the terminal edge do not cross* as they do on Pseudolasius. Frontal carinæ short and straight. The *antennal groove does not merge completely with the clypeal groove*. Antennæ of twelve segments with the funiculus filiform. Frontal area distinct. Eyes moderately large. Ocelli always present. Thorax more or less constricted at the mesonotal region, and both sutures are distinct. Epinotum more or less convex above and quite unarmed. *Node perpendicular,* not sloping. Gaster oval. Legs usually slender.

Female and male distinguished by the same characters as in the worker. The wings have a closed radial cell without a discoidal cell. In the male the outer genital plates are triangular, but very much narrower towards the tip, the middle plates have a short blunt outer, and a long hook-shaped inner process.

Pupæ enclosed in cocoons.

Type *Prolasius advena* Smith.

KEY TO SPECIES

A. Uniformly light brown.
Clypeus carinated.
1. Declivity of epinotum twice as long as the dorsum
P. advena Smith.
2. Declivity of epinotum three times as long as the dorsum
P. hellenae new sp.
3. Declivity of epinotum slightly longer than the dorsum
P. antennata new sp.

Clypeus not carinated.
4. Anterior border of clypeus rounded and the declivity of the epinotum twice as long as the dorsum
P. zealandica Smith.
5. Anterior border of clypeus rounded and the declivity of the epinotum one quarter longer than the dorsum
P. convexa new sp.
6. Anterior border of clypeus produced to a blunt point and the first segment of the funiculus as long as the three following
P. clarki new sp.

7. Anterior border of the clypeus produced to a blunt point, the first segment of the funiculus as long as the two following
P. brunea new sp.

B. Gaster much darker brown than the head and thorax.
Clypeus carinated.

8. Scape extends beyond the occipital border by half its length
P. mjobergi Forel.

9. Scape extends beyond the occipital border by a third of its length, and the first segment of the funiculus is as long as the three following
P. nigriventris new. sp.

10. Scape extends beyond the occipital border by a third of its length, and the first segment of the funiculus is as long as the two following
P. quadrata new. sp.

Clypeus not carinated.

11. Head longer than broad with the sides strongly convex and the anterior border of the clypeus produced to a blunt point
P. abruptus Clark.

12. Head nearly square with the sides feebly convex and the anterior border of the clypeus rounded
P. robustus new sp.

13. Scape extends beyond the occipital border by a quarter of its length, and the anterior border of clypeus produced to a blunt point
P. pallidus Clark

14. Scape extends beyond the occipital border by a third of its length, anterior border of clypeus rounded, and the declivity of the epinotum evenly straight or feebly convex
P. hemiflavus Clark.

15. Scape but the declivity is not straight but at middle of its length has a very obtuse angle which forms two almost straight planes
var. *wilsoni* new var.

C. Uniformly very dark brown.
Clypeus produced to a blunt point in front.

16. Anterior border of clypeus produced to a blunt point; epinotal declivity a third longer than the dorsum; first segment of the funiculus as long as the three following
P. flavicornis Clark

17. first segment of funiculus as long as the two following
var. *minor* new var.

18. Anterior border of clypeus produced to a blunt point; epinotal declivity twice as long as the dorsum; first segment of the funiculus as long as the two following
P. flavidiscus new sp.

19. Anterior border of the clypeus produced to a blunt point; epinotal declivity twice as long as the dorsum; first segment of the funiculus slightly longer than the second segment
P. wheeleri new sp.

Anterior border of the clypeus rounded.

20. Epinotal declivity twice as long as the dorsum
P. reticulata new sp.

21. Epinotal declivity only slightly longer than dorsum, but the dorsum does not overhang the declivity—
(a) node only half as high as declivity

P. depressiceps Emery.

22. (b) node nearly as high as declivity

var. *similis* new var.

23. Epinotal declivity only slightly longer than the dorsum, but the dorsum overhangs the declivity to a marked degree—
(a) clypeus carinated and frontal area indistinct

P. nitidissimus Andre.

24. (b) clypeus subcarinated and frontal area distinct

P. nitidissimus var. *formicoides* Forel.

25. Epinotal declivity slightly longer than the dorsum. Anterior border of the clypeus bluntly pointed. First segment of the funiculus slightly longer than the second

P. niger Clark.

CHARACTERISTICS COMPARED

Species	Length mm.	Clypeus	Scape extends over the occiput by—	First segment of funiculus longer than—	Epinotal declivity	Colour
advena	3 mm.	rounded ; carinate	quarter of length	two following	twice Dorsum	
hellenae	2.5 mm.	rounded ; carinate	third of length	two following	three times Dorsum	Uniformly
antennata	3–3.4 mm	pointed ; carinate	half of length	two following	just longer than D.	
zealandica	3 mm.	rounded ; not carin.	third of length	two following	twice Dorsum	light
convexa	3.4–3.6	rounded ; not carin.	half of length	two following	just longer than D.	
clarki	2.5–3 mm.	pointed ; not carin.	third of length	three following	twice Dorsum	brown
brunea	3.4 mm.	pointed ; not carin.	third of length	two following	twice Dorsum	
nijobergi	3.5–4 mm.	rounded ; carinate	half of length		longer than Dorsum	
nigriventris	3–4 mm.	rounded ; carinate	third of length	three following	just longer than D.	Gaster
quadrata	3.5–4 mm.	rounded ; carinate	third of length	two following	twice Dorsum	darker
abruptus	3.5 mm.	pointed ; not carin.	half of length	as long as two following	two and half times D.	brown
robustus	3.4–4 mm.	rounded ; not carin.	half of length	two following	twice Dorsum	than head
pallidus	2.2–2.8	pointed ; not carin.	quarter of length	two following	twice Dorsum	and
hemiflavus	2.7–3.2	rounded ; not carin.	third of length	three following	twice Dorsum	thorax
wilsoni	3 mm.	rounded ; not carin.	third of length	two following	twice Dorsum	
flavicornis	3–4 mm.	pointed ; sub-carin.	half of length	three following	just longer than D.	
minor	3.5 mm.	pointed ; sub-carin.	half of length	two following	just longer than D.	
flavidiscus	3.4–3.6	pointed ; sub-carin.	third of length	two following	twice Dorsum	Uniformly
wheeleri	3.4–3.8	pointed ; carinate	half of length	one following	twice Dorsum	very
reticulata	3.4–4 mm.	rounded ; carinate	half of length	one following	twice Dorsum	dark
depressiceps	3–3.5 mm.	rounded ; carinate	half of length	one following	just longer than D. twice height of node	brown
similis	3–3.5 mm.	rounded ; carinate	half of length	one following	just longer than D. as high as node	
nitidissimus	3.5–4 mm.	rounded ; carinate F. area indistinct	half of length	one following	just longer than D. Dorsum overhanging	
formicoides	3.3–4.2	sub-carinate F. area distinct	half of length		just longer than D. Dorsum overhanging	
niger	3.4–3.8	pointed ; sub-carin.	half of length	one following	just longer than D.	Black

1. *Prolasius advena,* Smith. (Plate I. figs. 1, 2, 3)

Formica advena Smith, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. I (3) p. 53. 1862 ☿ ♀

Kirby, Journ. N. Zeal. Instit., 2. p. 70, 1884. ☿ ♀

Prenolepis advena, Mayr, Verh. Zool. Bot. Ges. Wien. 36, p. 362, 1886.

Lasius (Prolasius) advena, Forel, Mitt. Schwiez. Ent. Ges. 8, p. 332, 1892. ☿ ♂ ♀

Melophorus (Lasiophanes) advena, Emery, Act. Soc. Sc, Chili, 5, p. 16, 1895.

Melophorus (Prolasius) advena, Emery, Genera Insect. fasc. 183, p. 14, 1925.

Prolasius advena, Wheeler, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts & Sc., 62, p. 127, 1927.

Redescribed from specimens from Christchurch, N.Z.

Worker:

Length 3mm. Brown with thorax and legs a slightly lighter brown.

Shining; microscopically punctate throughout; legs densely punctate but the promesonotum is very sparsely punctate.

Hair yellow, long, erect but confined to the mandibles, clypeus and gaster.

Pubescence greyish, very fine, adpressed, abundant throughout but not hiding the sculpture.

Head one fourth longer than broad, almost rectangular, with sides and the occipital border feebly convex, and the corners broadly rounded. Mandibles triangular, furnished with six strong sharp teeth, the first three being very much longer than the others. Clypeus rounded in front and carinated. Frontal area transversely triangular. Frontal carinæ parallel, short, as long as their distance apart. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by barely a fourth of their length. The first segment of the funiculus is slightly longer than the two following taken together, the fourth to the tenth longer than broad, while the apical segment is longer than the two preceding taken together. The eyes are large and placed at the middle of the sides of the head. The ocelli are small.

The thorax is twice as long as broad. The pronotum is a quarter broader than long with the sides very strongly convex, and is fully twice as broad as the rest of the thorax. Mesonotum is as long as broad and has the sides feebly convex. The epinotum which is slightly wider behind than in front, is a shade longer than broad. In profile the pronotum and mesonotum form an almost even convexity, while the epinotum is much lower than the mesonotum. The dorsum of the epinotum forms an almost straight line elevated towards the back. The epinotal declivity is straight and twice as long as the dorsum. The node is thorn-like, transversely convex, while in profile the anterior face is faintly convex, the posterior face almost flat with a slight thickening towards the base. Gaster slightly longer than broad. Legs long and slender.

Female: Described by Forel, Mitt. Schweiz. Ent. Gest. 8, p. 322, 1892.

Length: 5-6mm.

Head broader than long. Thorax high, broader than the head. Scale emarginate above. Head and gaster more plentifully provided with adpressed pubescence than the worker. Mandibles with seven teeth. Anterior edge of the clypeus as in the worker, triangular, produced medially. In other respects like the worker.

Male: Described by Forel.

Length: 2·8 mm.

Mandibles with broad concave terminal edge which bears a pointed terminal tooth with a small blunt tooth in front. Outer genitalia, particularly the plate rather large. Scale rounded above, not emarginate. Wings almost water clear.

Original habitat: Port Lyttleton, N.Z.

2. *Prolasius hellenae,* new species. (Plate I, figs. 8-9).

Worker:

Length 2·5mm.

Colour of uniform dull yellow or yellowish brown, with antennæ and legs lighter.

Microscopically punctate throughout.

Hair yellow, long, erect on clypeus and gaster, suberect on mandibles. Pubescence yellow, very fine, adpressed and abundant throughout.

Head one third longer than broad, slightly narrower behind than in front, with sides strongly convex, and occipital border fairly convex. Mandibles triangular, furnished with five uneven sharp teeth. Clypeus rounded in front, carinated. Frontal area triangular. Frontal carinæ short, as long as their distance apart, parallel. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by more than a third of their length. First segment of the funiculus longer than the two following taken together, third as long as broad, fourth longer than broad, fifth to tenth nearly twice as long as broad, apical as long as the preceding two taken together. Eyes large and rather flat. Ocelli small. Thorax twice as long as broad. Pronotum broader than long, sides strongly convex. Mesonotum one and a quarter times longer than broad, with the sides straight. Epinotum slightly broader than long, faintly broader behind than in front, with the sides almost straight. In profile the pronotum and mesonotum form an even convexity. Epinotum has the dorsum straight or feebly convex, and raised behind. Epinotal declivity straight, fully three times as long as the dorsum.

Node transversely convex. In profile thorn-like, very narrow and sharp, with the anterior face convex, and the posterior face straight or feebly concave. Legs rather robust.

Collected by Miss E. Clark. Katoomba, N.S.W.

Type in the National Museum of Vic.

3. *Prolasius antennata,* new species. (Plate I, figs. 4-5.)

Worker:

Length: 3-3·4mm.

Reddish brown with antennæ, legs and mandibles much lighter. Smooth and shining.

Hair whitish, erect, rather short, apparent on clypeus, mandibles, scapes pronotum and gaster. Pubescence also whitish, fine, adpressed and abundant throughout.

Head almost a quarter longer than broad, with sides feebly convex, the occipital border definitely convex, and the corners broadly rounded. Mandibles triangular furnished with six teeth. Frontal area transversely triangular. Frontal carinæ short, parallel and as long as their distance apart. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by almost half their length. First segment of funiculus almost as long as the following two taken together, the rest longer than broad, the apical segment almost as long as the two preceding together. Eyes large and convex, placed just behind the middle of the sides. Ocelli very small.

Thorax twice as long as broad. Pronotum twice as broad as long, with sides strongly convex. Mesonotum almost as broad as long, with the sides feebly convex, broader in front than behind. Epinotum slightly broader than long with sides very feebly convex or almost straight. In profile the pronotum and mesonotum form an almost even convexity. The dorsum of the epinotum is convex, and the almost straight declivity is just slightly longer than the

dorsum. Node convex transversely. In profile thorn-like, bluntly pointed almost as high as the epinotum, and has the anterior face and posterior face almost straight. Legs slender.

Collected by J. Clark. Ludlow, W.A.

Type in the National Museum of Vic.

4. *Prolasius zealandica,* Smith.

Formica zealandica, Smith, Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond., p. 6, 1878. ♀
Emery, Genera Insect. fasc. 183, p. 271, 1925.
Colobopsis zealandica, Wheeler, Bull. Amer. Acad. Arts & Sc., 62, p. 127, 1927.

Original description by Smith.

Female:

Length: 2½ lines.

The abdomen black, the head and thorax blackish brown, covered with a fine cinereous pile, which is most dense on the abdomen; mandibles, the scapes of the antennæ, and the flagellum at their base and apex pale rufo-testaceous. The thorax ovate, smooth and shining, the metanotum obliquely truncate, the femora rufo-fuscus, with their apex, the tibia and tarsi pale rufo-testaceous; the tibiæ usually more or less fuscus in the middle. Abdomen ovate shining with the margin of the segments very narrowly testaceous; scale of petiole ovate and emarginate above.

Collected by Prof. Hutton. New Zealand.

New description of worker from Nelson, New Zealand.

Worker:

Length: 3mm.

Testaceous with gaster and head darker brown.

Head mesonotum and epinotum covered with shallow microscopic punctures. Hair yellow, long, erect confined to the gaster and the clypeus. Pubescence whitish, fine, adpressed, abundant throughout but not hiding the sculpture. Head slightly less than a quarter longer than broad with the sides and occipital border convex, but to a very small degree, corners broadly rounded. Mandibles triangular and furnished with six short sharp teeth. Clypeus rounded in front, and not carinated. Frontal area transversely triangular. Frontal carinæ parallel and slightly longer than broad. The scapes extend beyond the occipital border by more than a third of their length. The first segment of the funiculus is slightly longer than the two following together, the fourth as long as broad while the apical is slightly longer than the two preceding taken together. Eyes moderately large and convex, placed just behind the middle of the sides. Ocelli small.

Thorax little more than twice as long as broad. Pronotum slightly broader than long, with very strongly convex sides. The promesonotal suture deeply impressed. Mesonotum one and a half times longer than broad, with straight parallel sides. Epinotum slightly broader than long, feebly convex, and very slightly broader behind than in front. In profile the pronotum and mesonotum form an almost even convexity. Epinotum slopes upward behind, and the dorsum is almost straight or feebly convex.

Epinotal declivity straight and almost twice as long as the dorsum. Node convex transversely, while in profile the anterior face is feebly concave and the posterior face straight. Legs slender.

Collected by E. B. Gourley. Nelson, New Zealand.

5. *Prolasius convexa,* new species. (Plate I, figs. 6-7).

Worker:

Length: 3·4-3·6mm.

Bright ferruginous throughout, but antennæ, legs and mandibles lighter. Smooth and shining.

Hair yellow, long, erect, confined to the clypeus and gaster. Pubescence yellow, fine, adpressed almost confined to legs and funiculus.

Head as broad as long—almost circular—with the sides and the occipital border very strongly convex, and the corners broadly rounded. Mandibles triangular, furnished with six strong teeth. Clypeus rounded in front, not carinated. Frontal area triangular transversely. Frontal carinæ short, diverging slightly. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by almost half their length. First segment of the funiculus longer than the two following together, third very short, fourth to tenth longer than broad, apical segment almost as long as the two preceding together. Eyes large convex, placed at the middle of the sides. Ocelli small.

Thorax twice as long as broad. Pronotum as long as broad with sides strongly convex. Mesonotum one third longer than broad, anterior two thirds of sides slightly convex, and wider apart than posterior third, whose sides are straight. Epinotum twice as broad as long, sides feebly convex, broader behind than in front. In profile the pronotum and mesonotum form an even convexity, with a deep indentation at the promesonotal suture. Epinotal dorsum straight or very feebly convex, inclined upwards behind. Declivity straight, at right angles to the dorsum, and a quarter longer than the dorsum. Node transversely convex. In profile thorn-like, almost twice as high as broad, with anterior face convex. and posterior face almost straight. Legs slender.

Collected by P. J. Darlington. Dorrigo, N.S.W.

Type in the National Museum of Vic.

6. *Prolasius clarki,* new species. (Plate I, figs. 26-27).

Worker:

Length 2·5-3mm.

Ferruginous with antennæ and legs lighter; in some specimens the colour is mottled dark ferruginous with the pronotum and mesonotum lighter. Smooth and shining.

Hair yellow, short, erect, apparent only on the clypeus and gaster. Pubescence yellow, very fine, adpressed, abundant throughout but not hiding the sculpture.

Head very slightly longer than broad, with the sides convex, and the occipital border concave. Mandibles triangular, furnished with six fairly even teeth. Clypeus produced to a blunt point in front, not carinate. Frontal area transversely triangular. Frontal carinæ short and parallel. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by almost a quarter of their length. First segment of the funiculus almost as long as the three following taken together, rest longer than broad, the apical segment as long as the two preceding together. Eyes small, placed slightly behind the middle of the sides. Ocelli small.

Thorax twice as long as broad. Pronotum slightly longer than broad, with sides strongly convex. Mesonotum one and a half times as long as broad, with the sides almost straight. Epinotum slightly broader than long, with the sides straight. In profile pronotum and mesonotum form an even convexity. The epinotum is straight and elevated behind, while the declivity is straight or

feebly concave, and twice as long as the dorsum. Node convex transversely. In profile thorn-like, bluntly pointed, with anterior face straight and posterior face faintly convex. Legs slender.

Female:

Length: 5·5mm.

Colour more uniformly light ferruginous. Pilosity as in worker. Microscopically punctate throughout. Occipital border and sides of head almost straight, the angles broadly rounded. Eyes and ocelli large and convex. Antennæ and mandibles as in worker. Thorax one and a half times as long as broad. Pronotum very short. Mesonotum slightly broader than long, with sides and front strongly convex. Parapsidal furrows fully half as long as the dorsum, and clearly impressed. Scutellum one quarter broader than long. Epinotum four times as broad as long.

Collected by P. J. Darlington. Barrington Tops, N.S.W.

Type in the National Museum of Vic.

7. *Prolasius brunea*, new species. (Plate I, figs. 22-23).

Worker:

Length: 3·4mm.

Dark ferruginous with antennæ and legs lighter. Some examples are dark reddish ferruginous with antennæ and legs yellowish.

Microscopically punctate throughout.

Hair yellow, long, confined to clypeus, mandibles and gaster. Pubescence yellow, fine, adpressed,, abundant throughout but not hiding the sculpture. Head about a quarter longer than broad, with sides feebly convex and occipital border almost straight, corners broadly rounded. Mandibles triangular, furnished with six fairly even teeth. Clypeus broadly pointed in front, not carinated. Frontal area transversely triangular. Frontal carinæ as long as the distance separating them, parallel. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by almost a third of their length. First segment of funiculus almost as long as the two following together, fourth as broad as long, rest almost twice as long as broad, apical as long as the two preceding together. Eyes large, convex, placed at the middle of the sides. Ocelli small.

Thorax two and a half times as long as broad. Pronotum as long as broad, sides strongly convex. Mesonotum slightly longer than broad, with the sides almost straight. Epinotum one and a half times as long as broad, with the posterior margin wider than the anterior margin, and sides almost straight. In profile pronotum and mesonotum form an even convexity. Epinotum almost straight, raised slightly behind. Declivity straight, fully twice as long as the dorsum. Node much lower than the epinotum, transversely convex. In profile sharp pointed, with anterior face convex, posterior face almost straight. Legs slender.

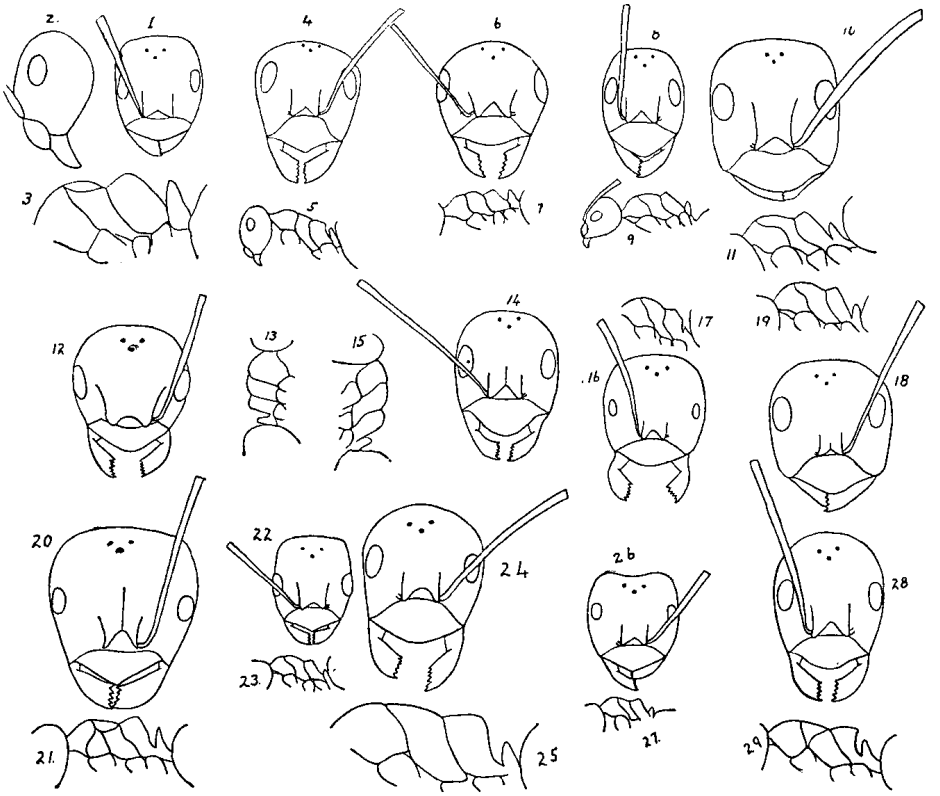
Collected by J. Clark. Millgrove, Vic.

Type in the National Museum of Vic.

8. *Prolasius mjobergi*, Forel.

Prenolepis mjobergi, Forel. Arkiv. f. Zool, 9, 16, p. 93, pl. 2, fig. 6, 1915. ♀
Prenolepis mjobergiellus, Santschi, Bull. Soc. Ent. Fr. p. 242, 1916.
Melophorus mjobergiellus, Emery, Genera Insect. fasc. 183, p. 12, 1925.

Translated from Forel's description in Arkiv. f. Zool.


2
1
4
6
8
10
3
5
7
9
11
12
13
15
14
17
19
16
18
20
22
24
26
28
23
21
25
27
29

Worker:

Length: 3·5-4mm.

Bright brown, gaster dark brown. Mandibles, funiculus and tarsi brownish yellow.

Hair reddish, sparse, fine on head and gaster. Pubescence reddish confined to the limbs.

Shining. Thorax and node almost wholly smooth. Head and limbs delicately and finely reticulate rugose or punctate. Gaster also transversely rugose, and with scattered reddish brown bristles.

Head rectangular, about a quarter longer than broad, in front and behind equally broad, with very feebly convex sides, almost straight occipital border and rounded angles. Mandibles shining, distinctly and finely longitudinally striate with scattered fine punctures, and furnished with six teeth, of which the last two are longer. Clypeus carinated on anterior two thirds, rounded on frontal border, but pointed in the middle. Frontal area triangular, rather convex and smooth. Frontal carinæ feebly diverging. Eyes large and feebly convex, placed at the middle of the sides. Ocelli very small but moderately distinct. The scapes extend beyond the occipital border by half their length. The segments of the funiculus almost three times as long as broad.

The pronotum as broad as long, convex on all sides. Mesonotum almost twice as long as broad, more convex transversely than longitudinally. Epinotum broader than the mesonotum. Dorsum of the epinotum about a third longer than broad, feebly convex, hardly higher behind than in front, with the mesonotum it forms a strong broad hump. The declivity of the epinotum upright, even, longer than the dorsum, into which it turns with a sudden strong curve. Node thick, above wholly bluntly rounded, almost twice as high as thick (long) strongly inclined, anterior face convex, posterior face almost straight. Gaster short. Legs very long.

Malanda, Q.

9. *Prolasius nigriventris*, new species. (Plate I, figs. 12-13). ♀ ✓

Worker:

Length: 3-4mm.

Thorax ferruginous with legs much darker. Head in many specimens a reddish brown with the antennæ lighter—lighter than the colour of the thorax. Node and gaster very dark blackish brown.

Smooth and shining.

Hair yellow, long, erect confined to gaster, clypeus and mandibles.

Pubescence greyish, adpressed, abundant on antennæ and legs, less noticeable on head and rest of body.

Head very slightly longer than broad, sides convex, occipital border straight, angles rounded. Mandibles triangular, furnished with six strong, fairly even teeth. Clypeus rounded in front, carinated. Frontal area rather rounded behind. Frontal carinæ moderately long, diverging outwards behind. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by more than a third of their length. First segment of the funiculus nearly as long as the three following, rest longer than broad, apical segment as long as the two preceding together. Eyes large, placed about the middle of the sides. Ocelli small but distinct.

Thorax twice as long as broad. Pronotum broader than long, with the sides strongly convex. Mesonotum slightly longer than broad, with sides almost straight, wider in front than behind. Epinotum slightly broader than long, drawn in at the mesoepinotal suture, but with the sides almost straight, and parallel. In profile pronotum and mesonotum are both convex, but the convexity

is broken by the deep suture. The epinotum is very feebly convex raised slightly behind. The epinotal declivity is straight and about a quarter longer than the dorsum. Node transversely convex, three times as wide as long. In profile rather rectangular with anterior face convex, the posterior face straight and the dorsum rather flattened. Legs rather robust.

Male:

Length: 3·7mm.

More uniformly dark brown, with the head slightly darker. Mandibles yellow. Smooth and shining.

Hair and pubescence more yellowish. Hair long on top of head and thorax.

Head slightly broader than long, sides strongly convex, occipital border straight, angles very sharp. Mandibles very small, edentate. Clypeus almost straight in front, with anterior border edentate. Frontal carinæ not clearly impressed. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by almost half their length, their bases exposed. Funiculus twelve segmented. First segment broader than any of the others, and as long as the two following together, apical segment as long as the preceding two.

Thorax has short pronotum which from above is twice as broad as long. Mesonotum almost circular. Scutellum longer than broad, sides almost straight, broader in front than behind. Metanotum about three times as broad as long. Epinotum as long as broad, sides convex. In profile the pronotum is raised behind. Mesonotum high, strongly convex from apex to base. Scutellum convex, slightly higher than the mesonotum; epinotum feebly convex, declivity oblique, longer than the dorsum into which it is rounded. Node from above is twice as broad as long, convex transversely. In profile it is rather rectangular with the faces slightly convex, about one and three quarters as high as long.

Collected by D. J. Mahony. Deal Island, Vic.

Type in the National Museum of Vic.

10. *Prolasius hemiflavus,* Clark.

Clark, Mem. Nat. Mus. Vict. 8, p. 68, Pl. 4, figs. 28-29, 1934. ☿ ♀

Worker:

Length: 2·7-3·2mm.

Head, thorax, node, antennæ and legs ochraceous; gaster brownish, apex of gaster yellowish.

Smooth and shining; head, thorax, antennæ and legs very finely and densely punctate.

Clypeus strongly convex, not carinate, anterior border rounded. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by almost a third of their length. First segment of funiculus larger than the three following together. Epinotal declivity twice as long as the dorsum.

Beech Forest, Vic.

11. *Prolasius hemiflavus* var. *wilsoni,* new variety. (Plate I, figs. 16-17).

Worker:

Length: 3mm.

Dull yellow with the gaster very much darker—a dull brown in some specimens.

Hair yellow, long, erect, confined to the gaster. Pubescence yellow, very fine adpressed, abundant throughout, but more noticeable on the darker gaster.

Shining; microscopically punctate throughout.

Head slightly longer than broad, sides convex, occipital border almost straight. Head as in *P. hemiflavus* except that the first segment of the funiculus is larger than only the two following segments together. Thorax slightly more than twice as long as broad. Pronotum very slightly longer than broad, sides strongly convex. Mesonotum slightly longer than broad, broader in front than behind. Epinotum as broad as long, very much narrower than the mesonotum. In profile similar to *P. hemiflavus.* The epinotal declivity slightly convex, with a very obtuse angle at the centre so that the upper half of this face slopes outward towards the node, the lower half is almost straight and vertical. The whole declivity is twice as long as the dorsum. Node seen from above is very narrow and transverse, almost straight. In profile it is sharp pointed with the faces straight, and only half as high as the epinotum. Legs slender.

Collected by F. E. Wilson. Bogong Plains, Vic.

Type in the National Museum of Vic.

12. *Prolasius pallidus,* Clark.

Clark, Mem. Nat. Mus. Vict. 8., p. 67, pl. 4, figs. 26-27, 1934. ☿ ♀

Worker:

Length: 2·2-2·8mm.

Pale ochraceous yellow; gaster slightly darker.

Clypeus produced to a blunt point in front, not carinated. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by one quarter of their length. First segment of the funiculus slightly longer than the two following together, second and fourth as long as broad, third shortest, one third broader than long, fifth to ninth longer than broad, tenth as long as broad, apical longer than the two preceding together. Dorsum of epinotum half as long as the declivity.

Beech Forest, Vic.

13. *Prolasius abruptus,* Clark.

Clark, Mem. Nat. Mus. Vict., 8 p. 66, pl. 4, fig. 25, 1934. ☿

Worker:

Length: 3·5mm.

Ferruginous; mandibles, antennæ and legs lighter; gaster brownish.

Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by barely half their length. *First segment of the funiculus as long as the two following together,* second and third as long as broad, fourth to tenth longer than broad, apical as long as the two preceding together.

Gellibrand, Vic.

Note.—The original description gives "first segment of the funiculus twice as long as the two following together." After checking the type and several paratypes it was found that this is incorrect and it was necessary to make the above correction.

14. *Prolasius quadrata,* new species. (Plate I, figs. 10-11).

Worker:

Length: 3·5-4mm.

Head and thorax dull yellow; gaster dark brown, lighter than *P. robustus.*

Microscopically punctate throughout, but smoother than *P. robustus.*

Hair yellow, long, erect, sparse, confined to clypeus and gaster. Pubescence yellow, very fine, adpressed, abundant throughout but not hiding the sculpture.

Head noticeably rectangular, slightly longer than broad, sides and occipital border almost straight, corners broadly rounded. Mandibles triangular furnished with five sharp teeth. Clypeus broadly rounded in front, carinated. Frontal

area almost rounded behind. Frontal carinæ as long as their distance apart, diverging slightly behind. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by one third of their length. First segment of the funiculus as long as the two following, second to fourth as long as broad, rest longer than broad, apical longer than the two preceding together. Eyes large and convex. Ocelli small.

Pronotum one and a half times broader than long, sides strongly convex. Mesonotum slightly longer than broad, broader in front than behind, sides straight. Epinotum broader than long, sides almost straight, slightly broader behind than in front. In profile pronotum and mesonotum form an even convexity with pronotum slightly higher than mesonotum. Dorsum of epinotum straight, and inclined upward behind. Epinotal declivity feebly convex, almost at right angles to the dorsum, and at least twice as long as dorsum. Node transverse, convex on top. In profile thorn-like, bluntly pointed above, with anterior face convex, posterior face almost straight. Legs slender.

Collected by W. M. Wheeler. Mt. Kosciusko, N.S.W.
Type in the National Museum of Vic.

15. *Prolasius robustus,* new species (Plate I, figs. 18-19).

Worker:

Length: 3·4-4mm.

Light brown with thorax, antennæ and legs of lighter colour.

Microscopically punctate throughout, rather dull, with gaster more shining.

Hair yellow, long, erect, confined to gaster, clypeus and mandibles. Pubescence yellowish, very fine, abundant throughout but not hiding the sculpture.

Head slightly longer than broad, squarish, sides and occipital border very feebly convex, angles broadly rounded. Mandibles triangular, furnished with five strong sharp teeth. Clypeus rounded in front, not carinated. Frontal area triangular. Frontal carinæ short and parallel. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by half their length. First segment of the funiculus as long as the two following together, the rest twice as long as broad, the apical as long as the two preceding together. Eyes large and convex, ocelli small.

Thorax twice as long as broad. Pronotum broader than long with the sides strongly convex. Mesonotum twice as long as broad with the sides straight. Epinotum as long as broad, with the sides feebly convex. In profile the pronotum and mesonotum form an even convexity. Epinotum straight elevated behind. Epinotal declivity straight, more than twice as long as the dorsum. Node from above slightly convex. In profile it is thorn-like, bluntly pointed, with faces slightly convex, not half as high as the epinotum. Gaster large, twice as long as broad. Legs slender.

Collected by J. Clark. Fern Tree Gully, Vic.
Type in the National Museum of Vic.

16. *Prolasius flavicornis,* Clark.

Clark, Mem. Nat. Mus. Vic., 8, p. 69, pl. 4, figs. 31-32, 1934. ☿ ♀

Worker:

Length: 3-4mm.

Blackish brown; antennæ and coxæ yellowish; legs and node brown.

Shining, microscopically punctate throughout. Mandibles very finely longitudinally striate.

Clypeus produced and bluntly pointed in front, subcarinated on anterior two thirds. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by almost half their length. First segment of the funiculus as long as the three following together,

second to fourth as broad as long, rest longer than broad. Epinotal declivity just longer than the dorsum.

Beech Forest, Vict.

17. *Prolasius flavicornis* var. minor, new variety.

Worker:

Length: 3·5mm.

Differs very little from the type. The colour is lighter. First segment of the funiculus is longer than the two following, but certainly not as long as the three following together.

Collected by W. M. Wheeler. Habitat: Sherbrooke Forest, Vic.
Type in the National Museum of Vic.

18. *Prolasius flavidiscus,* new species. (Plate I, figs. 20-21).

Worker:

Length: 3·4-3·6mm.

Dark almost blackish brown; legs, antennæ more reddish brown. The colour varies somewhat, some species being almost black, some have coxæ and articulations of the antennæ dark yellow, some have the body a reddish brown.

Shining but with small shallow punctures throughout, almost reticulate, more noticeable on the pronotum and back of head where there are rough little clusters of punctures.

Hair yellow, long, erect, and confined to the gaster and the clypeus. Pubescence yellowish, abundant on the antennæ and legs.

Head slightly longer than broad, sides slightly convex, occipital border almost straight, corners broadly rounded. Mandibles triangular furnished with five strong teeth. *Clypeus produced to a blunt point, faintly carinated.* Frontal area broadly triangular. Frontal carinæ slightly diverging behind. There is a faint frontal groove stretching beyond the eyes. *Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by more than a third of their length. First segment of the funiculus longer than the two following together,* rest longer than broad, the apical longer than the two preceding taken together. Eyes circular, convex, placed a little behind the centre of the sides. Ocelli very small.

Thorax a little more than twice as long as broad. Pronotum slightly broader than long, strongly convex, twice as broad as the rest of the thorax. Mesonotum one quarter longer than broad, with the sides almost straight. Epinotum as long as broad, broader behind than in front. In profile the pronotum and mesonotum form an even rather flat convexity. The epinotum slightly convex, raised behind, and higher than the mesonotum. The epinotal declivity straight and nearly twice as long as the dorsum.

The node is thorn-like, transversely convex. In profile it is sharply pointed, with the anterior face convex, and posterior face straight. Legs rather sturdy.

Female:

Length: 5·2mm.

The colour is of the worker, but with this noticeable difference—on the dorsum of the mesonotum, there is a large disc of bright yellow with a small spot of dark red in the centre.

The sculpture is coarser especially on the gaster. The pilosity similar to that of the worker but pubescence is found on the thorax and head. Head much the same as worker's but the clypeus is clearly carinated, the scapes slightly shorter. Eyes and ocelli large and convex.

Pronotum almost hidden, the mesonotum large and strongly convex in all directions, the parapsidal furrows not reaching the centre of the sides of the

mesonotum, but very clear and distinct. The upper edge of the node is very strongly concave so as almost to form two prongs.

Collected by J. J McAreavey. Mt. Ben Cairn, Vic.
Type in the National Museum of Vic.

19. *Prolasius wheeleri,* new species.

Worker:

Length: 3·4-3·8mm.

Very dark brown, gaster darker but legs and antennæ lighter.

Shining, reticulate punctate throughout.

Hair yellow, erect, scattered on clypeus, thorax and gaster. Pubescence greyish, very fine, adpressed, abundant throughout.

Head one quarter longer than broad, sides almost straight and parallel, occipital border convex, corners broadly rounded. Mandibles triangular, furnished with five teeth. Clypeus bluntly pointed in front, carinated, almost overhanging the mandibles. Frontal area convex behind. Frontal carinæ rather long, diverging behind. Eyes large, convex, placed about the middle of the sides. Ocelli large. Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by more than half their length. First segment of the funiculus slightly longer than the second, rest more than twice as long as broad, the apical segment almost as long as the two preceding together.

Thorax slightly more than twice as long as broadest part. Pronotum as broad as long, sides strongly convex. Mesonotum longer than broad by a half, sides almost straight. Epinotum as long as broad, sides feebly convex, broader behind than in front. In profile the pronotum and mesonotum form an even convexity with the pronotum slightly higher. The dorsum of the epinotum is convex, higher behind, and higher than the mesonotum. Epinotal declivity almost straight, or feebly concave, twice as long as the dorsum. Node thorn-like, flattened on top, posterior face, in profile, straight, while the anterior face is straight, with a slight inclination forward. Legs slender.

Collected by W. M. Wheeler. King's Park, Perth.
Type in the National Museum of Vic.

20. *Prolasius reticulata,* new species. (Plate I. figs. 14-15).

Worker:

Length: 3·4-4·4mm.

Dark reddish brown; legs, antennæ and mandibles lighter, more yellowish.

Microscopically reticulate throughout.

Hair yellow, long, erect, confined to gaster and clypeus. Pubescence greyish, very fine, adpressed, abundant throughout, but not hiding the sculpture.

Head one fifth longer than broad, sides convex, occipital border feebly convex, corners broadly rounded. Mandibles triangular, furnished with six strong sharp teeth, the apical being the longest. Clypeus carinated, rounded in front. Frontal area triangular. Frontal carinæ short, parallel. In some specimens there is a distinct frontal groove extending beyond the eyes, almost to the ocelli. Scapes extend beyond the occiput by fully half their length. First segment of funiculus one and a half times as long as second, rest two to three times as long as broad, apical almost as long as the two preceding together.

Thorax almost two and a half times as long as broad. Pronotum as long as broad, sides strongly convex. Mesonotum twice as long as broad, slightly broader behind than in front. Epinotum as long as broad, sides almost straight. In profile the pronotum and mesonotum form an even rather flat convexity with a deep depression at the suture. Epinotum convex, elevated behind and

rounded into the declivity. The epinotal declivity straight or feebly convex, twice as long as the dorsum. Node from above is straight, or feebly convex, transverse. In profile thorn-like, anterior face convex, posterior face straight, flattened on top. Legs slender.

Collected by J. Clark. Mundaring, W.A.
Type in the National Museum of Vic.

21. *Prolasius depressiceps,* Emery. (Plate I, figs. 24-25).

Melophorus, Emery, Boll. Lab. Zool. Portici, 8, p. 186, fig. 5a, 1914. Genera Insect. fasc. 183, p. 12, 1925.
Prolasius, Wheeler, Psyche, 42, p. 71, 1935.
Redescribed from ants from Katoomba, N.S.W.

Worker:

Length: 3-3·5mm.

Reddish dark brown, legs slightly lighter, mandibles orange.

Hair yellow, long, erect, confined to clypeus and gaster. Pubescence whitish very fine, adpressed, confined to legs and antennæ.

Smooth and shining; antennæ very finely punctate, gaster finely shagreened. Head slightly longer than broad, sides convex, occipital border convex, corners broadly rounded. Mandibles triangular, furnished with five strong, sharp teeth behind the apex. *Clypeus* rounded in front and *carinate.* Frontal area broadly triangular. Frontal carinæ barely as long as the distance between them and parallel. Eyes large, placed about the middle of the sides. Ocelli small but distinct. *Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by half their length. First segment of the funiculus slightly longer than the second,* rest nearly twice as long as broad, the apical segment as long as the two preceding taken together. Thorax twice as long as broad. Pronotum slightly longer than broad, sides strongly convex. Mesonotum one and a half times longer than broad, broader behind than in front, sides straight. Epinotum as broad as long, broader behind than in front, sides feebly convex. In profile pronotum and mesonotum form an even convexity, with a slight dip at the promesonotal suture. Dorsum of the epinotum strongly convex, and slightly elevated behind, joining the slightly concave and slightly longer declivity with a noticeable angle (right angle).

The node scale-like, convex transversely. In profile bluntly pointed with the anterior face strongly convex, the posterior face straight, about half as high as the epinotum. Legs slender.

Original Habitat: Katoomba, N.S.W.

22. *Prolasius depressiceps* var. *similis,* new variety.

This ant differs very slightly from the type. The node is very much higher than is the node of *P. depressiceps.* It is also very like *P. nitidissimus,* but the dorsum of the epinotum does not in any way overhang the declivity to form the very distinct angle described by Andre.

Collected by W. M. Wheeler, 1931. Mt. Kosciusko, N.S.W.
Type in the National Museum of Vic.

23. *Prolasius nitidissimus,* Andre. (Plate 1, figs. 28-29.)

Formica nitidissimus, Andre, Rev. d'Ent. Caen, p. 255, 1896. ☿
Melophorus nitidissimus, Emery, Boll. Lab. Zool. Sc. Agric., Portici viii. p. 186, fig. 5b, 1914. ☿
Melophorus nitidissimus, Emery, Genera Insect. fasc. 183, p. 12, 1925.

Prolasius nitidissimus, Wheeler, Psyche, 42, p. 71, 1935.
Redescribed from ants from Goulburn River, Vic.

Worker:

Length: 3·5-4mm.

Blackish brown, some with a reddish tint; legs, antennæ, mandibles slightly lighter.

Hair yellow, short, suberect apparently only on the clypeus and gaster. Pubescence whitish, very fine, adpressed, confined to legs and antennæ.

Smooth and shining, antennæ very finely punctate.

Head slightly longer than broad, sides fairly convex, occipital border convex corners broadly rounded. Mandibles triangular, furnished with five strong sharp teeth behind the apex. *Clypeus carinated.* Frontal area broad, almost convex behind. Frontal carinæ parallel, barely as long as the distance between them. Eyes large, placed about the middle of the sides. Ocelli small but distinct. *Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by half their length. First segment of funiculus slightly longer than the second,* the rest nearly twice as long as broad, the apical segment almost as long as the two preceding taken together. Pronotum slightly longer than broad, sides strongly convex. Mesonotum one third longer than broad, sides almost straight. Epinotum as long as broad, sides almost convex, slightly wider behind. In profile pronotum and mesonotum form an even convexity. Dorsum of epinotum convex. The declivity of the epinotum straight, slightly longer than the dorsum. *The dorsum joins the declivity at a very noticeable angle, and seems to overhang slightly the declivity.*

The node is scale-like, from above it is transverse, straight or faintly concave on top. In profile it is bluntly pointed above, the anterior face slightly convex, the posterior face straight. Legs slender.

Original habitat: Australian Alps, 1896.

24. *Prolasius nitidissimus* var. *formicoides,* Forel.

Melophorus formicoides, Forel, Rev. Suisse Zool. x, p. 483, 1902. ☿ ♀
Melophorus formicoides, Emery, Genera Insect. fasc. 183, p. 12, 1925. ☿ ♀
From Forel's description only.

Worker:

Length: 3·3-4·2mm.

Blackish brown; gaster brownish black. Legs, scapes, base of mandibles, and sometimes also the thorax and head brown. Rest of mandibles, funiculus reddish yellow. Posterior border of the segments of the gaster a clear brown.

Whole body chargined. Head evenly subopaque.

Coarse brown, stiff, thick, suberect hairs on gaster. Legs and scapes without hair but covered with very fine pubescence.

Head nearly square, slightly longer than broad, with the posterior border very distinct. The eyes are very much larger than in *P. nitidissimus,* being almost as long as their distance from the occipital angle. Ocelli distinct. *Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by more than half their length, the segments of the funiculus three times as long as broad. Clypeus subcarinate.*

The pronotum and mesonotum are more convex than in *P. nitidissimus* and the dorsum of the epinotum larger, while the declivity is as in *nitidissimus.* The node is much higher and thinner than in *P. nitidissimus.*

Female:

Length: 5·5mm.

Thorax larger than the head and strongly convex. The declivity of the epinotum flat and truncated. Node high, the upper border straight.

The whole body is covered with a very distinct greyish pubescence forming a light down. Legs reddish. The rest as in the worker.

Collected by G. Turner. Mackay, Q.

25. *Prolasius niger,* Clark.

Mem. Nat. Mus. Vict., 8, p. 68, 1934, ☿

Worker:

Length: 3·4-3·8mm.

Black. Mandibles antennæ and tarsi brown. Legs blackish brown.

Smooth and shining. Mandibles feebly striate and punctate. Clypeus microscopically reticulate. Scapes and legs very finely and densely punctate.

Clypeus sharply carinate on anterior two thirds.

Scapes extend beyond the occipital border by half their length. First segment of the funiculus slightly longer than second and twice as long as broad.

Beech Forest, Vic.

Genus MELOPHORUS, Lubbock, 1883.

Melophorus potteri, new species. (Fig. 1.)

Major Worker:

Length: 4·2-4·8mm.

Head and promesonotum bright red, epinotum and node brownish red, gaster shining black, mandibles brownish red.

Hair yellowish, long and confined to mandibles, clypeus and underside of gaster. Pubescence greyish, confined to funiculus, tibiæ and tarsi.

Mandibles shining, smooth with some scattered punctures. Head smooth and shining with very minute punctures. Pronotum transversely striate very finely. Mesonotum more feebly striate and the striation is rather circular. Epinotum reticulate and densely and finely punctate. The sides of the thorax very finely and densely reticulate though rather transversely striate on epinotum. Node very finely reticulate and the gaster very finely transversely striate.

Head excluding the mandibles very slightly longer than broad, slightly broader in front than behind, with almost straight sides and occipital border, the posterior angles broadly rounded. Mandibles large and broad, furnished with five even strong teeth. Clypeus strongly convex in front, raised and projecting over the mandibles to a very marked degree. Frontal carinæ very short, hardly noticeable in some specimens. Antennal insertions quite exposed. Frontal area faint, triangular, but no sign of frontal groove. Scapes extend to the occipital border. First segment of the funiculus twice as long as the second, remaining segments twice or almost twice as long as broad, apical segment slightly longer than the preceding one. Eyes small, rather flat, near the sides, with the anterior border just behind the middle of the sides. Ocelli small but distinct.

Thorax twice as long as its broadest part, which is a line through the pronotum. Pronotum slightly broader than long, with sides strongly convex. Mesonotum longer than broad, twice as broad in front as behind, with a marked depression near the mesoepinotal suture. The apex of this triangular depression, or metanotum is raised slightly over the dorsum of the epinotum. Epinotum twice as long as broad, the sides sloping inwards to form the dorsal surface which is one and three quarter times longer than broad, with feebly convex sides, convex posterior border, and broader behind than in front. In profile the pronotum and mesonotum form an even convexity with a marked promesonotal suture, metanotum small, its dorsum raised slightly behind. Epinotal dorsum

almost straight, passing by an even curve into the declivity, which is one and three quarter times longer than the dorsum, sloping outwards in a straight line towards the base of the node. Node nearly four times as broad as long, anterior face convex, posterior face concave, upper border deeply concave in middle. In profile scale-like, three times as high as long, with anterior face

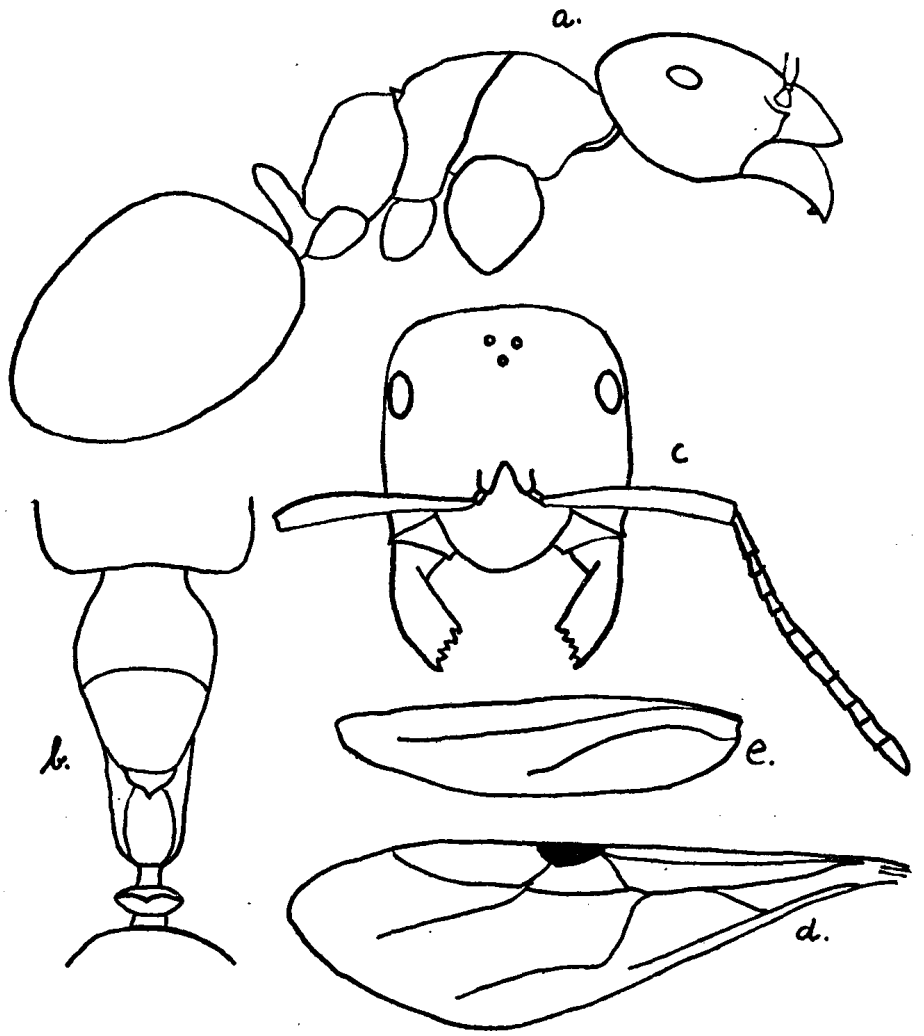


FIG. 1

FIG. 1. a. *Melophorus potteri* sp. nov., major worker. b. Dorsal, view of same. c. Head of major. d. and e. Wings of female.

feebly convex, posterior face almost straight, and bluntly pointed on top. Gaster oval. Legs robust.

Minor worker:

Length: 4mm.

The colour varies: some of the specimens are of the same colour as the major, except that the front of the head is more brownish, while others are very much darker. In these examples the head is dark reddish brown, the

thorax and node darker chestnut and the gaster brownish black. Legs light brown.

The sculpture is much finer, but there are no punctures.

The eyes are more oval than those of the major. The rest as in the major.

Female:

Length: 5·2mm.

Very like the major, and the colour sculpture and pilosity are the same. The pronotum is twice as wide as long with the sides feebly convex. Mesonotum large, almost circular, though very slightly wider in front than behind. Parapsidal furrows deep, longer than half the mesonotum. Scutellum broader than long, elliptical, with a wide suture separating it from the epinotum. It is smooth and shining. Epinotum transversely striate and twice as broad as long. The node is finer than that of the major, concave on top. In profile the mesonotum is higher than the pronotum with a feebly convex dorsum. The scutellum is lower than the mesonotum, while the epinotum is convex with a declivity concave, and much steeper than that of the major. The wings are almost colourless with the pterostigma light brown.

Collected by Mr. Herbert Potter of Patho, Victoria, who has previously contributed a number of new and very interesting raiding ants from his district.

Type in the National Museum of Vic.

PLATE I.

FIG.		
1.	*Prolasius advena* Smith	Worker, head from in front.
2.	*P. advena*	Worker, head in profile.
3.	*P. advena*	Worker, thorax in profile.
4.	*P. antennata,* new species	Worker, head.
5.	*P. antennata*	Worker, thorax in profile.
6.	*P. convexa,* new species	Worker, head.
7.	*P. convexa*	Worker, thorax.
8.	*P. hellenæ,* new species	Worker, head.
9.	*P. hellenæ*	Worker, thorax.
10.	*P. quadrata,* new species	Worker, head.
11.	*P. quadrata*	Worker, thorax.
12.	*P. nigriventris,* new species	Worker, head.
13.	*P. nigriventris*	Worker, thorax.
14.	*P. reticulata,* new species	Worker, head.
15.	*P. reticulata*	Worker, thorax.
16.	*P. hemiflarua* variety *wilsoni*	new var., worker, head.
17.	*P. hemiflavua* variety *wilsoni*	Worker, thorax.
18.	*P. robustus,* new species	Worker, head.
19.	*P. robustus*	Worker, thorax.
20.	*P. flavidiscus,* new species	Worker, head.
21.	*P. flavidiscus*	Worker, thorax.
22.	*P. brunea,* new species	Worker, head.
23.	*P. brunea*	Worker, thorax.
24.	*P. depressiceps* Emery	Worker, head.
25.	*P. depressiceps*	Worker, thorax.
26.	*P. clarki,* new species	Worker, head.
27.	*P. clarki*	Worker, thorax.
28.	*P. nitidissimus* Andre	Worker, head.
29.	*P. nitidissimus*	Worker, thorax.